

THE WEEK AT WASHINGTON

On November 28 it was announced that General Reyes, Colombia's special representative, brings to this government a proposition from Colombia to grant all the canal concessions provided for in the Hay-Herran treaty absolutely free to this country. All that Colombia asks in return is to be left free to settle the revolution in Panama and conduct its own affairs. This proposal of Colombia has aroused much comment throughout the country.

It was reported on November 29 that former Commander Richmond Pearson Hobson of the navy has prepared a bill which he has requested Representative Wiley of Alabama to introduce in the house on the convening of the regular session of congress for the purpose, he says, of making the United States the first naval power of the world during the next eighteen years. The bill makes a total appropriation of \$2,750,000,000, a certain portion of which is to be used each year for new ships. Fifty million is made available for the present fiscal year, \$60,000,000 for the next and so on, increasing by \$10,000,000 each year up to 1915, when a lump sum of \$1,500,000,000 is made to carry on the program to 1925.

In regard to the recognition of the provisional government at San Domingo, it is learned that United States Minister Powell has received instructions to refrain from recognizing that government until he has proper assurances that the interests of the United States will not suffer from so doing. It follows that Mr. Powell is to make sure that the arbitration of the claims against Santo Domingo of the San Domingo Improvement company shall proceed just as the program has already been arranged.

Major General J. R. Brooke, retired, former governor general of Cuba, appeared before the senate committee on military affairs and gave testimony in the charges against General Leonard Wood on November 30. General Brooke's testimony against General Wood is regarded as highly damaging and tend to sustain the charges of insubordination. It is thought that General Wood may have to return from the Philippines to testify in his own behalf.

Full recognition of the new republic of Panama has been given to it by the governments of Germany and Austria through their ambassadors at Washington, and M. Varilla, the Panama minister, has been informed of the recognition extended.

It is understood that proposed Philippine legislation will not be enacted at the approaching regular session of congress. Governor General Taft of the Philippines and others are in favor of a reduction of the duties on Philippine products coming into this country, but so much opposition has developed to the proposed legislation that the political leaders fear the effect of the agitation in the coming presidential campaign and it will undoubtedly be postponed until the short session of this congress.

It was announced from Washington by the Associated press on November 30 that the interstate commerce commission has postponed until January 18 the hearing to be held in this city in the case of W. R. Hearst of New York against the anthracite coal-carrying roads, involving alleged unjust rates on coal from the anthracite fields to the seaboard. It has assigned the following dates for hearings in other

cases: At Chicago, January 7, nine cases, involving the recent advances in freight rates on east-bound grain; at Washington, December 15, the case involving alleged allowances of preferential rates on grain by the Union Pacific railroad to the elevators of Peavy & Co., and at Richmond, Mich., December 21, the case of the Richmond Elevator company against the Pere Marquette railroad, involving alleged discrimination in the supply of cars.

The seventh annual report of the secretary of agriculture was recently submitted to the president. According to a Washington dispatch by the Associated press on November 30, Secretary Wilson reviews at length the production and exports of American agricultural products. The increase in the exports of farm products for the half century ended 1901 was from \$147,000,000 to \$952,000,000—550 per cent. The exports of farm products for the closing decade of the last century was over \$700,000,000, and for 1903 over \$878,000,000, an amount second only to that of 1901. Of grain and grain products the export exceeded in value \$221,000,000, and in the supply of animals, meats and meat products, the value of exportation was \$211,000,000.

Dr. Herran, the Colombian charge d'affaires, called at the state department on December 1 for the first time in many weeks. His purpose was to inform Secretary Hay of General Reyes' arrival, and during his call it is said that he was given to understand that the government will not receive General Reyes for any other purpose than to talk over terms of peace, as the United States does not desire to have any other proposal from Colombia in regard to the Panama republic.

The steamer City of Washington, having on board the canal treaty with the new Panama republic, arrived at Colon on December 1, and the treaty was immediately turned over to the minister of foreign affairs of Panama, who will take it to the capital to be ratified and signed.

It is announced from Washington that the Manchurian question may be submitted to The Hague for arbitration and settlement, although no official confirmation of this report may yet be obtained. It is said, however, that China is willing to refer the question to arbitration and Russia may be persuaded to do likewise.

Senator Penrose, chairman of the committee on postoffices and postroads, on December 1 introduced a resolution requesting the postmaster general to send to the committee all the papers connected with the recent investigation of the postoffice department and if necessary the committee is to make further investigation and report to the senate. The resolution was referred to the committee on contingent expenses of the senate.

It was announced on December 2 that the canal treaty had been signed at Panama. On the same day the Panama representative at Washington was notified of the fact and the treaty will be immediately sent to Washington.

Sir Mortimer Durand, the successor of Sir Michael Herbert as the ambassador of Great Britain to the United States, was received formally by President Roosevelt on December 2.

According to Washington advices,

the republic of Cuba is confronted with a serious problem in regard to the adjustment of the claims of the veterans of the Cuban army for back pay. Originally these claims aggregated \$10,000,000, but have now increased to about \$50,000,000 and with some other claims pending against the government, it is believed that Cuba must borrow not less than \$75,000,000 very soon to satisfy all claims. Negotiations for this loan are now in progress.

A meeting in the interests of international arbitration was held in Washington on December 3 at the home of General John W. Foster, former secretary of state. It is understood that the movement has the hearty approval of the president, and the meeting on December 3 was attended by many of the prominent men of the country. A meeting of the national arbitration committee is to be held in Washington on January 12 next to consider plans for extending the principle of arbitration among all nations of the civilized world. The recent movement in Washington is headed by General Foster and Admiral Dewey.

A dispatch from Washington under date of December 3 says that the Dominican arbitration commission has been organized with Judge George Gray as president and Captain Lemly secretary. Senor Galvin, secretary of finance in the Dominican government that was lately overthrown, in spite of the protests made by the provisional government now in power against his selection, John G. Carlisle has been named as a representative of the United States in the arbitration proceedings.

On December 4 the state department was informed by Minister Beaupre, stationed at Bogota, Colombia, that the Hay-Herran canal treaty was rejected by the Colombian senate on its merits, and that the Colombians are still hopeful of being able to negotiate a new treaty with the United States in place of the one rejected. In spite of this information, however, it is not concealed that no hope of success can be extended by this government to Colombia in its anxiety to place matters on their old footing in regard to the canal.

On December 4 Representative Livernash of California introduced a joint resolution in the house "defining the intention of the United States concerning the isthmus of Panama." It disclaims on the part of the United States any intention to impair Colombian sovereignty, or to support the republic of Panama against Colombia, or to interfere in the relations between Colombia and Panama.

Representative Wachter of Maryland has introduced a bill, making April 14 of every year a legal holiday, to be known as "Martyrs' Day" in commemoration of the death of Abraham Lincoln.

Former Representative William M. Springer of Illinois, a democratic leader, and conspicuous in the house of representatives during the Forty-fourth and Fifty-third congresses, died at his residence in Washington on December 4, aged 64 years. Mr. Springer was the author of the bill admitting Washington, Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota into the Union, and of the bill organizing the territory of Oklahoma and creating a judicial system for Indian territory. He was United States judge for the Northern district Indian territory, and chief justice of the United States court of appeals for Indian territory, 1895-99.

The provisional government in San Domingo on December 4 made an official request for recognition to the diplomatic and consular bodies. Minister Powell had made known the conditions upon which the United States will recognize the new government as follows: The government must agree to abide by and respect the agreements made by the preceding administrations, must recognize the manner of settlement arrived at in the case of the Improvement company of New York and the Ros and Sala cases; must recognize and carry into full effect the concession to the steamship company and must grant the privilege to the United States to establish, at dangerous points on the coast, light-houses to aid maritime commerce. Should the provisional government not accept these conditions, its recognition by the United States is doubtful.

Additional News of the Week.

Dr. Cyrus Edson, the famous physician and well known as an authority on the treatment of lung diseases, died at his home in New York city on December 2. He was a chemist and analyst of high repute, and has written a number of valuable articles on medical and sanitary subjects. He served for some time as chief inspector for the city of New York.

According to a London cablegram under date of December 4 negotiations begun recently by the powers may result in an international administration for Macedonia along the lines observed in the present government of the island of Crete. This plan was broached by Russia and Austria and it is believed that it will be put in operation to prevent another Macedonian uprising in the spring.

An Associated press dispatch from St. Paul, Minn., dated December 3, says: The supreme court today held that the state was under no moral obligation to pay sugar bounty under the law enacted in 1895, and declared the law unconstitutional. The Minnesota Sugar company sued the state and secured a writ of certiorari to compel the state auditor to pay a bounty of \$20,000, which it claimed it had earned under the sugar bounty act of 1895.

Subscribers' Advertising Department

The best evidence of the value of this department to small advertisers is the fact that those who use it never hesitate to use it again if opportunity affords. Many letters from advertisers express their entire satisfaction with the results. The rate for advertising in this department is 6 cents per word per insertion, in advance. Address all orders to The Commoner, Lincoln, Neb.

WATCHES—35 JEWELLED ELGIN 20 YEARS case \$9.28. Send for catalogue. G. H. Goodwin Co., Tracy, Minn.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE FARMS. IF YOU want a large or small farm, cash or easy terms, \$4.00 to \$20.00 per acre, write enclosing stamp. A. L. Seal, McEwen, Tenn.

HOTEL FOR RENT IN CITY 5,600 INHABITANTS. Rare business opportunity. William Hughes, Randolph Wis.

FOR FARMS IN BEAR RIVER VALLEY, Utah address V. S. Peet, Salt Lake City, Utah.

FOR RENT—CHICKEN PLANT. FULLY equipped, steam heat, modern dwelling house, brooders and incubators; within easy reach of market that never fails, and that pays highest prices. Property offered for lease represents expenditure of \$14,000. Splendid opportunity for practical poultry man. Rent very reasonable. Address, Riverside Land and Stock Company, Helena, Montana.

THE FIRST BATTLE MR. BRYAN'S STORY of the Campaign of 1896, illustrated, 1st. 100 copies. Price \$1.50, postage prepaid. Only a few copies left. G. H. WALTERS, 2245 V. St., Lincoln, Neb.

YOU COULD SELL OLD LINE LIFE INSURANCE if you knew how. We teach the art free of charge and pay you for your time. Desirable contracts awaiting special and general agents for the states of Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska and Kansas. Address L. care of Commoner.